

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

October 8, 2015
Maricopa Association of Governments; Saguaro Room;
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*ADOT: Jaclyn Meli

Avondale: Kristen Sexton, Vice Chair

Buckeye: Sean Banda for Andrea Marquez

Chandler: Jason Crampton for RJ Zeder

El Mirage: Jose Macias

Gilbert: Kristin Myers

Glendale: Debbie Albert

Goodyear: Cato Esquivel

#Maricopa: David Maestas

*Maricopa County DOT: Denise Lacey

Mesa: Jodi Sorrell

*Paradise Valley: Jeremy Knapp

Peoria: Bill Mattingly for Stuart Kent

Phoenix: Maria Hyatt, Chair

Queen Creek: Mohamed Youssef

Scottsdale: Gregory P. Davies for Madeline
Clemann

Surprise: Martin Lucero

#Tempe: Robert Yabes

*Tolleson: Jason Earp

Valley Metro: Abhi Dayal

#Youngtown: Grant Anderson

* Members neither present nor represented
by proxy.

Participated (or attended) by teleconference

+ Participated (or attended) by videoconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Marc Pearsall, MAG

Alice Chen, MAG

DeDe Gaisthea, MAG

Margaret Boone, MAG

Monique de los Rios Urban, MAG

Jeff Martin, Chandler/Mesa

Ken Kessler, Phoenix

David Kohlbeck, Surprise

Jennifer Pyne, AECOM

Randy Overmyer, CK Group

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at the special time of 9:33 a.m. by Chair Maria Hyatt. She welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. She noted that two members were joining the meeting by teleconference: David Maestas of Maricopa and Grant Anderson of Youngtown. She asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft September 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chair Hyatt inquired if there were any comments or corrections to the Draft September 10, 2015 Minutes. Hearing no further comments, she called for a motion on the Draft September 10, 2015 Minutes. Bill Mattingly of Peoria moved to approve the motion, Debbie Albert of Glendale seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Hyatt then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Hyatt stated that she had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Planning Report

Chair Hyatt invited Marc Pearsall of MAG to brief the Committee with the Transit Planning Report. Mr. Pearsall said that he had several items to report on with recent transit planning activities and upcoming agenda items for other MAG committees. He gave an update on the current status of projects and funding: He stated that on Wednesday, September 30th, the United States Senate and House of Representatives passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government open and funded at current levels through December 11, 2015. The President signed the bill into law before midnight, which marked the beginning FY2016. He noted that this process would most likely repeat itself prior to the next budget lapse on December 11. Moving forward, the proposed \$275 Billion DRIVE ACT would be the first 6-year Transportation Authorization Bill for highways and transit in a decade. Many in Congress had expressed hope in passing a version prior to the holidays that would fund 3 of the 6 years, with a future Congress figuring out how to fulfill the funding gap for 2019-2021. If another continuing short-term funding bill is passed, then it was assumed that the new President and Congress would not tackle the DRIVE ACT until spring 2017.

He also explained that Valley Metro and City of Tempe were awarded a \$250,000 grant under FTA's Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning to conduct TOD planning activities along the Tempe Streetcar corridor. He also added that for the South Central Light Rail Extension, Valley Metro, in partnership with City of Phoenix, submitted an application to FTA seeking entry into the New Starts Project Development phase. Once approved under the New Starts

program, Valley Metro would have two years to complete all activities under the Project Development phase, which primarily consists of environmental document completion and FTA approval thereof. As a housekeeping measure, he added that MAG Regional Council had approved the 5310 Priority Listing with Final Apportionment on September 30th.

He completed his report by noting a future event: There would be an AZITE Webinar - Complete Streets Policy and Retrofit soon. The AZITE Board would be hosting a "Complete Streets Policy and Retrofit Webinar" on Tuesday, October 20th, from 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., presented at Phoenix City Hall. Registration was free through AZITE and lunch would be provided. He said that those interested could contact him and he would forward you the information from Monique De Los Rios-Urban of MAG.

Chair Hyatt thanked Mr. Pearsall and asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Mr. Dayal asked a brief clarifying question. Hearing no further comments, Chair Hyatt proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

5. Retain Current Chair and Vice Chair through December 31, 2017

Chair Hyatt explained the following information to the committee members regarding Chair and Vice Chair terms for Transit Committee.

She advised that on August 21, 2013, the Regional Council approved updating the MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures to two-year terms for the technical and other policy committees. According to the Policies and Procedures, Section 5.06 – Vacancies, “In the event of a vacancy in the Chair position, the Vice Chair becomes Chair for the unexpired term of the previous Chair, and a Vice Chair is appointed by the Executive Committee to complete the remainder of the Vice Chair’s term. An individual who succeeds to an unexpired term of twelve months or less will serve for the remainder of the term, and is eligible to serve an additional two-year term.”

Chair Hyatt noted that she, as Chair of the Transit Committee, ascended to the position on December 31, 2014 and was permitted to serve out the remainder of previous Chair Clemann’s tenure, which is due to expire on December 31, 2015. Chair Hyatt also stated that she, according to the MAG policies, had the option to serve one additional two-year term through December 31, 2017. Vice Chair Kristen Sexton was also appointed to fill the vacant Vice Chair position on January 12, 2015, and also had an option to serve an additional two year term through December 31, 2017.

Chair Hyatt asked if any members of the Transit Committee had any comments or concerns with she and Vice Chair Sexton serving one additional two-year term for both Chair and Vice Chair, beginning on January 1, 2016 and expiring December 31, 2017. Hearing none, Chair Hyatt thanked the members and Vice Chair Sexton and noted that the next two years would be an exciting time for transit and looked forward to serving through 2017. Hearing no further questions, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

6. Regional Transit Survey Review

Chair Hyatt invited Alice Chen of MAG to present on the item. Ms. Chen Explained a brief background regarding the Regional Transit Survey Review. In Fiscal Year 2016, MAG staff, in coordination with MAG Transit Committee, City of Phoenix(Designated Grant Recipient) and Valley Metro/RPTA, would develop the FY 2016 Program of Projects (POP) and FY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The programming principles would follow the guidelines approved by the MAG Regional Council on March 27, 2013, last amended on May 27, 2015. To better understand the transit needs of the member agencies, MAG sent out a survey on August 24, 2015 to the Transit Committee members, which would be presented and discussed today.

Ms. Chen advised that there were a variety of questions; which included the following: 1. Describe your project. Include in the description where it is located and what will it do.; 2. Are you aware of any other agencies that are interested in being a part of this particular project? If so, please list them.; 3. How much will the project cost? Please provide the source of the estimate; 4. If funding were available immediately, when could this project start? When is your best guess as to the actual start date?; 5. If you have any documents or plans that references this project, please list what they are. If it is available online, please provide a link to the document.; 6. Include any other information here

She then reviewed the response results from the survey. The agencies that responded were: Buckeye, Chandler, Gilbert, Peoria, Phoenix, Tempe and Valley Metro/RPTA. The types of projects included were bus expansion, bus replacement, bus pullouts, bus stops, ADA/sidewalk, and operating regional ITS/software/facility. The preliminary survey results also included bus capital, operating/ JARC, bus stop/accessibility, regional ITS/software/facility and bus pullouts. She noted that the discussion topics also included JARC Projects /non profit, Southeast Valley Transit System Study, next bus real-time information and TIGER 2016.

Ms. Chen then summarized the next steps for the survey: She noted that the deadline would be from Oct. 8 through Oct. 22, 2015, but that there would be additional response time (if needed). On November 2015, the final survey results would be due to there being no meeting in December. In January 2016, Transit Committee members would review strategies for funding Priority 4: JARC and Priority 9 and competitive projects. In February 2016, the committee would finalize strategies and process, with March/April 2016 for recommendation of projects for funding. In May 2016, the draft POP and draft FY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program would be submitted. Ms. Chen completed her presentation and noted that the item was on the agenda for information, discussion, and recommended approval, but that no action was required at the time. Chair Hyatt thanked Ms. Chen and asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the agenda item.

A few clarifying comments were noted by Mr. Pearsall, Mr. Dayal and Mr. Crampton regarding the Southeast Valley Transit System Study, the JARC and the Short Range Transportation Plan. Other commentary was made regarding elderly transportation, next bus technology, and the prospects of a TIGER 2016 call for projects. Mr. Lucero and Ms. Albert commented on JARC, and Chair Hyatt commented on the Regional Fare Collection System, which would lapse through 2018. Vice Chair Sexton inquired about transit signal priority, and Mr. Dayal replied that Valley Metro would be discussing and exploring this issue in the future.

Mr. Lucero stated that since the region was working towards a new RTP in the next few years, it would be a good idea in the future to assemble a master list of the most important/most needed/data driven transit improvement projects for each Sub-region within the Valley. Additional comments were made regarding regional needs assessments for bus and bus interlining.

Chair Hyatt thanked the members and asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing none, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

7. Fiscal Year 2015 Program of Projects – Updated with Final Apportionment

Chair Hyatt invited Alice Chen of MAG to continue and present on the item. Ms. Chen began by noting that on June 24, 2015, MAG Regional Council approved the draft FY 2015 POP with provisions to finalize the TIP listings, as full fiscal year apportionment became available. She said that Federal apportionment was released on August 26, 2015 and that changes to the POP included updates to the Section 5307, 5307-JARC, 5307-AVNGDY, 5337, 5339 and STP-flex funds. Projects affected included preventive maintenance funding region-wide, 5307-JARC, 5307-AVNGDY, advancement of a Phoenix bus and deferment of funding for the Laveen Park and Ride, Peoria Transit Center, and Scottsdale Road associated transit improvements to FY 2016. She stated that the project listings would be reviewed by MAG Transportation Review Committee on October 1, 2015.

Ms. Chen then began a brief presentation on the Fiscal Year 2015 Program of Projects, FY 2015 final apportionment and the modifications from May 2015 TC recommended approval. She further explained that the updated costs were indexed to Section 5307 Urbanized Area formula funds, preventive maintenance, associated transit improvements (Phoenix-Mesa UZA), transit security (Avondale-Goodyear UZA) and job access and reverse commute. She then discussed the deferred facility projects in order to align with updated schedule, and reiterated the Scottsdale Road associated transit improvements, Laveen/59th Ave Park-and-Ride, Peoria Transit Center, adjustments to balance the program, as well as the increased regional preventive maintenance budget by \$22,828 as well as advancing the Phoenix bus replacement from FY 2016 to FY2016.

Chair Hyatt again thanked Ms. Chen for the presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments from the members regarding the agenda item. Hearing no further comments, Chair Hyatt called for a motion on acceptance of the MAG Fiscal Year 2015 Program of Projects – Updated with Final Apportionment. Martin Lucero of Surprise moved to approve the motion, Kristen Myers of Gilbert seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Hyatt then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

8. Update - Federal Transit Administration Section 5304 Transit Planning Funding for FY2016 Call For Projects by the Arizona Department of Transportation

Chair Hyatt invited Marc Pearsall and Teri Kennedy of MAG to present on the item. Marc noted that as he previously reported at the September Transit Committee, that ADOT had issued a NOFA for Local Rural/Small Urban Transit Planning Projects on September 29th. The applications were

directed through the COGs/MPOs with a return deadline by December 4, 2015. MAG staff was then directed by the committee to compile a list of three requisite projects that would be submitted to ADOT for consideration. The projects were compiled from 'rural transit related' wish-list candidate projects culled from previous MAG and Valley Metro studies, as well as discussion and input from the committee and regional member agencies. The list will be submitted for consideration by ADOT, although there was no guarantee of funding for the studies due to the competitive nature of the grant.

Mr. Pearsall walked the committee through the MAG Region 5304 planning projects spreadsheet list, and explained how each item qualified for ADOT's consideration for the Section 5304 application. The three candidates were listed in the green fields of the spreadsheet and included the Rural Para-transit Needs Assessment in the MAG Planning Area, the City of Maricopa Transit Demand Study and the Apache Junction Area Transit Demand Study. The rural para-transit study was a preemptive move out of necessity in that it was expected that the State may cut AHCCCS non-emergency medical transportation by Sept 2016. The other two areas, Apache Junction and Maricopa, were included as rural-periphery candidates, as neither area currently features a dedicated, fixed route transit service that links existing transit service in the MAG Region.

The middle two projects were not submitted to ADOT because they feature Valley Metro's ongoing commitment to work with areas that were previously served by transit or currently have a transit study underway. The Wickenburg Rural Connector (Rte 660) was operated by Valley Metro from 2005-2011 between Wickenburg and Glendale. However, the service ceased during the Great Recession due to low rider-ship and funding cuts. If service were re-instituted, previous agreements between agencies would need to be revisited and funding identified and committed. Valley Metro and Wickenburg will continue dialogue on this item in 2016.

The Anthem - New River Rural Connector would expand Valley Metro service to serve new markets near unincorporated northern Maricopa County / north City of Phoenix area. A van pool, shuttle or express from Anthem Outlet to North Phoenix / Deer Valley / Desert Ridge may be options, but any recommended service would be new transit service linking the metro Phoenix area, and Anthem area and would require new funding. Valley Metro began meeting with residents and leaders in the New River and Anthem areas in fall 2015 to plan options for the future. The remaining four rural transit items on the list were just outside the MAG planning area, so they were potential candidate submittal items by SCMPO-CAG-Coolidge(CART)and Maricopa. Ms. Kennedy noted that the item was on the agenda for information, discussion and recommended approval for the MAG Region 5304 planning projects list to be submitted to ADOT by December 4, 2015.

Chair Hyatt thanked Mr. Pearsall and Ms. Kennedy and asked if there were any questions or comments from the members regarding the agenda item. Ms. Albert of Glendale inquired about the requirements and perimeters of ADOT's FTA 5304 call for projects, specifically the defined buffer zone between rural and urban. Mr. Pearsall replied that he had spoken with Ms. Allred of ADOT regarding the line of delineation, especially since MAG was a large urbanized area. Ms. Allred had clarified that the concept of 5304 Local Rural/Small Urban projects did include communities within large urbanized areas, especially if they lacked any basic transit and were seeking new connectivity to existing urban or rural transit systems. Mr. Pearsall noted that the three MAG candidate request studies were the only ones that fit the criteria. Mr. Banda of Buckeye also made a clarifying point.

Hearing no further comments, Chair Hyatt called for a motion on acceptance of the MAG candidate project list of FY16 FTA Section 5304 Transit Planning Funding Call For Projects to be submitted for consideration by ADOT. Kristen Myers of Gilbert moved to approve the motion, Abhi Dayal of Valley Metro seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Hyatt then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

9 . Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Hyatt asked the members of the Committee if there were any issues that they would like added as future agenda items. Mr. Lucero of Surprise again noted that since the region was working towards a new RTP in the next few years, it would be a good idea in the future to assemble a master list of the most important/most needed/data driven transit improvement projects for each Sub-region within the Valley, by using the studies that have already been performed over the past few years. Chair Hyatt thanked Mr. Lucero and the members. Hearing no further comments, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

10. Next Meeting Date

Chair Hyatt thanked those present and announced that the next meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Office, Saguaro Room. There being no further business, Chair Hyatt adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.